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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Armin GEIGER et al.
Serial No. : 10/525,613
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For : AGITATING BALL MILL WITH RADIAL AGITATOR
Group Art Unit : (Not yet known)
Examiner : (Not yet known)

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SUBMISSION OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

Sir:

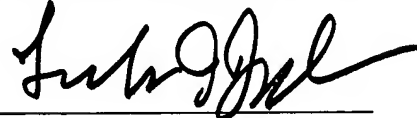
Submitted herewith is the English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report for U.S. National Stage of PCT/CH2003/000560. Please note the foreign references

mentioned in the Examination Report were previously submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 24, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enc. English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SUPPLEMENT
03/00560

International Ref.:
PCT/CH

Item V

1. Prior Art

This decision specifies the publications cited in the search report as follows; numeration will be retained in the further proceedings:

D1: US 5 590 841 A

D2: US 5 624 080 A

D3: PATENT ABSTRACT OF JAPAN, Vol. 2003, No. 02, 5 February
2003 (2003-02-05) & JP 2002 316061 A

D4: GB 1 277 715 A

D5: US 5 474 237 A

2. Claim 1 (Novelty)

D1 clearly describes an agitating ball mill with all features specified in the preamble to claim 1 (see Fig. 1). In the agitating ball mill from D1, it is also clearly evident that the rotor (1) is shaped like a rotationally symmetrical body, and the stator is formed by an interior surface of the grinding chamber with a shape essentially complementary to the rotor surface (Fig. 1), and that the rotor and stator have pins (9a, 9b) arranged over their entire respective surface, which extend from the respective surface and project into the processing area (column 4, lines 7-8, Fig. 2). Since D1 has all features of claim 1, the corresponding subject matter cannot be regarded as novel (Art. 33(1) and (2) of the PCT).

3. Dependent Claims 2-16

The additional features in dependent claims 2-6 relate to structural measures known to the expert as purely routine. In particular those measures from claims 2 and 5 are known from D2, while those from claims 3 and 4 are known from D3. In turn, the measures from claim 6 are known from D1. Therefore, combining these features with those of claim 1 is apparently unable to substantiate any inventive activity (Art. 33(1) and (3) of the PCT).

The additional features from claims 7-13 and 15-16 describe a grinding chamber with its stator, its rotor and its separation device, whose grinding chamber can be swiveled up to a high location where the mentioned grinding chamber is higher than most of the grinding chamber volume, thereby enabling good access to the components. These features are also described in D4 for achieving the same object. Therefore, combining these features with those of claim 1 is apparently unable to substantiate any inventive activity (Art. 33(1) and (3) of the PCT).

The measure from claim 14, which defines the separation device as a self-cleaning grading screen, is known from D5. Therefore, combining these features with those of claim 1 is apparently unable to substantiate any inventive activity (Art. 33(1) and (3) of the PCT).

4. Commercial Applicability

The commercial applicability is evident (Art. 33(1) and (4) of the PCT).